

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:RTWILLNER/ASWIFT:KAD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091794

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PROCULO RODRIGUEZ

REF: STATE 48411

1. PROCULO RODRIGUEZ VISITED DEPARTMENT UNHERALDED MORNING OF APRIL 21 TO MEET WITH PHILIPPINE DESK. HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY OF "TOLERATING" MARCOS GOVERNMENT, AND WHETHER U.S. MIGHT NOW BE DISPOSED TO CONDONE OR ASSIST IN "BAY OF PIGS" (SIC) UNDERTAKING. HE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SUCH UNDERTAKINGS WERE UNPOPULAR THESE DAYS BUT WONDERED IF MAYBE ON A SMALL SCALE SOMETHING COULD BE DONE.

2. DEPTOFFS TOLD HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PHILIPPINES AND THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY PLOTS AGAINST THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT. SAID WE ARE ALLIED WITH THE GOP UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND WE WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION SHOULD WE LEARN OF DEVELOPMENTS THREATENING THE SECURITY OF A FREINDLY GOVERNMENT.

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3. RODRIGUEZ REPLIED THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THIS REPLY BUT HAD WANTED TO MAKE SURE. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR REPLY FROM CIA AND STATE TO PREVIOUS INQUIRIES, ONE IN 1972. HE HAD DECIDED TO APPROACH MUSLIM AND ARAB NATIONS FOR HELP, BUT THAT THEY HAD NOT PROVIDED ANY

CONCRETE COMMITMENTS. HE STRESSED THAT HIS APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE OUTSIDE THE U.S. HOWEVER, HE WANTED TO INQUIRE JUST WHAT HIS LEGAL SITUATION WOULD BE WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.

4. DEPTOFFS ADVISED HIM THAT THEY WERE NOT LAWYERS, AND THAT HE SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY. THEY ADDED THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO CONSULT THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE'S LEGAL DIVISION IN REGARD TO HIS STATUS AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT. THEY ALSO COMMENTED THAT A CONVICTION ON ANY CHARGE MIGHT MAKE HIM LIABLE TO DEPORTATION, AND THAT SOME TYPES OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT CONCEIVABLY RENDER HIM INELIGIBLE FOR REENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES, DESPITE HIS PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

5. IT APPEARED THAT MR. RODRIGUEZ WAS VERY CONCERNED TO MAINTAIN HIS STATUS AS A LEGAL IMMIGRANT TO U.S. HE STATED HE WAS INFORMING DEPT ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES SO THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE ABOVE BOARD WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

6. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER RODRIGUEZ IS TRUE MARCOS OPPONENT OR PROVOCATEUR, DEPT NOW FEELS TIME HAS COME TO INFORM GOP OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH RODRIGUEZ. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOP THAT RODRIGUEZ, A MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE OPPOSITION IN U.S., CALLED ON DEPT TO ASK IF U.S. POLICY TOWARD GOP HAD CHANGED AND THAT DEPT GAVE RODRIGUEZ REPLIES SET FORTH IN PARA 2 AND 4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BRIEF GOP ON RODRIGUEZ COMMENTS NOR ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF RODRIGUEZ DEALINGS WITH MUSLIM AND ARAB STATES.

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